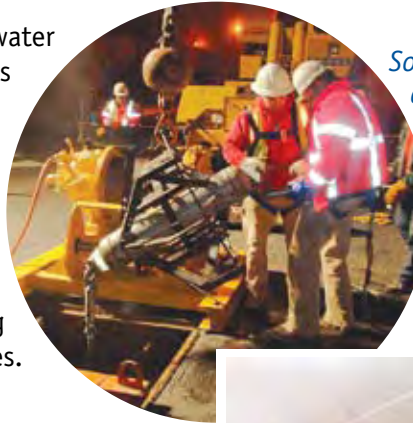


Protecting our assets

It would cost about \$20 billion to build King County's wastewater system from the ground up today, and the value of our facilities as they now stand is estimated at about \$4 billion.

Naturally, we put a high priority on managing and maintaining our buildings, treatment plants, pump stations, manholes, pipelines, as well as the property surrounding them.

The county's Asset Management Program oversees inspection of the regional treatment system, repairing and replacing aging facilities and developing plans to address ongoing system issues.



Sonar inspections and closed-circuit cameras help inspection crews detect pipe deterioration.



One of our biggest ongoing asset management challenges is directly related to the age of the system – pipe corrosion. Investments in repairing and rehabilitating these aging pipes will help prevent system failures, overflows and costly emergency repairs.



Employees install coatings, linings and sealants to extend the life of our pipelines and equipment.

Planning for growth

Planning and building new wastewater infrastructure is extremely complex. It can easily take a decade or more to go from identifying a project need to cutting the ribbon on a newly completed facility.

Because investments in wastewater infrastructure are significant, the Wastewater Treatment Division's system planning has checks and balances to ensure decisions reflect the interest of the regional ratepayers, who ultimately pay for these investments.

King County carefully reviews local comprehensive plans and compares growth projections to census data and population forecasts prepared by the Puget Sound Regional Council. The county also looks at its own wastewater flow and monitoring data, which has historically proved highly accurate and reliable.

The Wastewater Treatment Division regularly delivers reports on the status of its comprehensive plans to the King County Council and other stakeholders. On very large projects, such as Brightwater for example, the council might appoint its own independent monitoring consultant to review project plans, schedules and associated cost trends during construction. Additionally, the King County Council presides over the budget process and votes to set sewer rates, providing additional oversight on financial matters.

Though clean water is our ultimate goal, the Wastewater Treatment Division also defines success by running an agency that is well-managed, fiscally responsible and compliant with its state and federal pollution control requirements.